

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06117 241343Z
ACTION FBOE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00
/027 W

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P 241334Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8571

UNCLAS PANAMA 06117

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC,ABLD
SUBJ: ALTERATIONS TO POLITICAL SECTION OFFICE SPACE

1. IN MID-JULY A SURVEY TEAM VISITED PANAMA FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSING POST SPACE REQUIREMENTS INCLUDING POSSIBLE RELOCATION AND ENLARGEMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, RELOCATION OF RTC AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICES, AND PROVISION OF NEW OR MODIFIED CHANCERY OFFICE SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL STAFF BEING ASSIGNED TO POST.
2. ONE OF THE MOST IMMEDIATE NEEDS IDENTIFIED WAS THAT OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE OFFICE SPACE FOR THE ADDITION OF THREE NEW AMERICAN POSITIONS TO THE POLITICAL SECTION. ARCHITECT OWEN HENDEN DREW A PLAN RECONFIGURING THE EXISTING POLITICAL SPACE SO THAT ADEQUATE OFFICES COULD BE PROVIDED FOR ADDITIONAL AMERICAN PERSONNEL.
3. THIS PLAN CALLS FOR DEMOLITION OF 75 TO 85 PERCENT OF EXISTING INTERNAL PLASTER WALLS AND RE-CONSTRUCTION WITH DRY WALL.
4. POST SOLICITED AND RECEIVED TWO BIDS FOR WORK AS FOLLOWS: HOMA-DOLS 16,900 / DIAZ Y GUARDIA-DOLS 35,281
5. ARCHITECT ICHIRO MORI PRESENTLY AT POST WITH CAT TEAM

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REVIEWED HENDEN'S PLAN AND BOTH BIDS INDICATING THE LOWER BID TO BE MORE IN LINE WITH THE SCOPE OF WORK. MORI SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTING A BETTER FIBERGLASS CEILING MATERIAL TO PROVIDE MORE NATURAL LIGHT IN THE RENOVATED OFFICE SPACE. THIS MATERIAL WILL INCREASE THE TOTAL PRICE TO DOLS 19,500.

6. OFFICERS FILLING NEW POSITIONS IN POLITICAL SECTION
BEGIN ARRIVING PANAMA IN SEPTEMBER, THEREFORE IT IS
CRUCIAL THAT RENOVATION WORK START IMMEDIATELY. POST
THEREFORE REQUESTS ALLOCATION OF DOLS 19,500 SO THAT
WORK CAN BEGIN AT ONCE. JORDEN

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NNN

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